

### **REMARKS**

This response is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed on August 14, 2006. In view of the following amendment and discussion, the Applicants believe that all claims are in allowable form.

### **CANCELLATION OF CLAIMS**

The Applicants have cancelled claims 1-22 without prejudice. The Applicants reserve the right to file continuing and/or divisional applications to further prosecute the cancelled subject matter.

### **IN THE DRAWINGS**

The Examiner asserts that the adjustable pin as claimed in claim 48 is not shown in the drawings. The Applicants submit that the pins are depicted, for example, as reference numerals 236a-236b in Figure 4. Paragraph 34, lines 5-14 of the specification properly provides the written description of the pins. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the objection withdrawn.

### **CLAIM OBJECTIONS**

#### **A. Claims 48 and 59**

Claims 48 and 59 stand objected because of informalities. In response, the Applicants have amended claim 48 by replacing the term "on" as the term "one" and claim 59 by replacing the term "are" as the term "is" as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the objection withdrawn and claims allowed.

#### **B. 35 U.S.C. §112, Claims 26, 34, 36-39, 47 and 59**

Claims 26, 34, 36-39, 47 and 59 stand objected as failing to complying 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. In response, the Applicants have amended claims 26, 34, 36-39, 47 and 59 as suggested by the Examiner to more clearly recite certain aspects of the invention. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the objection withdrawn.

### **CLAIM REJECTIONS**

#### **35 U.S.C. §102      Claims 23-26, 31-33, 35-36, 39-43, 47, 49-56 and 59-60**

Claims 23-26, 31-33, 35-36, 39-43, 47, 49-56 and 59-60 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,283,701 issued September 4, 2001 to *Sundar, et al.* (hereinafter referred to as *Sundar*). In response, the Applicants have amended claim 23 to more clearly recite certain aspects of the invention.

Independent claim 23, as amended, recites elements not taught or suggested by *Sundar*. *Sundar* teaches a gripper for wafer handling robots. (Abstract). The gripper can be actuated by a mechanism housed within the linkage of the robot. The mechanism is actuated by a structure within, not remote from, the linkage of the robot. Therefore, *Sundar* does not teach or suggest a gripper assembly coupled to a robot and configured to retain a circular semiconductor substrate on the end effector, the gripper assembly being mechanically actuatable by a structure remote from the robot and end effector during substrate transfer, as recited by claim 23.

Thus, the Applicants submit that independent claim 23 and all claims depending therefrom, are patentable over *Sundar*. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

#### **35 U.S.C. §103      Claims 27-30, 44-46, 48 and 57-58**

Claims 27-30, 44-46, 48 and 57-58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sundar*. In response, the Applicants have amended claim 23 to more clearly recite certain aspects of the invention.

Independent claim 23 recites elements not taught or suggested by *Sundar*. As discussed above, *Sundar* does not teach or suggest a gripper assembly coupled to a robot and configured to retain a circular semiconductor substrate being mechanically actuatable by a structure remote from the robot and end effector during substrate transfer, as recited by claim 23. Nor are there any teachings or suggestions of record to modify *Sundar* to yield the system recited by claim 23. As such, a *prima facie* case

of obviousness has not been established as *Sundar* fails to teach or suggest all claimed elements.

Thus, the Applicants submit that independent claim 23 and all claims depending therefrom are patentable over *Sundar*. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

**35 U.S.C. §103      Claims 23-36 and 39-60**

Claims 23-36 and 39-60 stand rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sundar* in view of United States Patent No. 4,411,576 issued October 25, 1983 to *Smith, et al.* (hereinafter referred to as *Smith*). In response, the Applicants have amended claim 23 to more clearly recite certain aspects of the invention.

Independent claim 23 recites elements not taught or suggested by the combination of *Sundar* and *Smith*. The teaching of *Sundar* has been discussed above. *Smith* teaches gripping jaws attached to an end of a pick and place robot used for feeding parts. Stops 160, 161 may be utilized to stop the rotational movement of an arm containing the gripping jaws. However, the gripping jaws in the casting are not configured to retain a substrate. Furthermore, the manner of the operation of *Smith's* pick and place robot fails to teach or suggest a modification to *Sundar* that would yield an operational gripper assembly at least because *Sundar's* gripper operates via extension while *Smith's* gripper operates via rotation. Thus, *Smith* cannot teach or suggest a modification to *Sundar* that would yield a gripper assembly coupled to a robot and configured to retain a circular semiconductor substrate and being mechanically actuatable by a structure remote from the robot and end effector during substrate transfer, as recited by claim 23. Thus, a *prima facie* case for obviousness has not been established as the references fail to teach or suggest all the limitations recited by claim 23.

Thus, the Applicants submit that independent claim 23 and all claims depending therefrom are patentable over the combination of *Sundar* and *Smith*. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn and claims allowed.

**ALLOWED CLAIMS**

The Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 37-38. However, in light of the amendment and at least the reasons discussed above, the Applicants believe all claims are allowable over the prior art of record. Thus, the Applicants respectfully request all independent claims and claims depending therefrom allowed.

**NEW CLAIM 61**

New claim 61 has been added to more clearly recite certain aspects of the invention. The Applicants submit that the new claim is fully supported by the specification and believes that no new matter has been added. Accordingly, the Applicants request allowance of claim 61.


**CONCLUSION**

Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above, the Applicants submit that all claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any unresolved issues still exist, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Keith Taboada at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Nov 10, 2006  
Date

  
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